

REMARKS

Claims 19-36 were previously pending in the application.

The Examiner has identified three patentably distinct Groups in the claimed invention as follows:

- (I) Group I, including Claims 19-33, drawn to a linen treatment device, classified in class 68, subclass 12.06.
- (II) Group II, including Claim 34, drawn to an oven, classified in class 126, subclass 1R.
- (III) Group III, including Claims 35 and 36, drawn to a dishwasher, classified in class 134, subclass 56D.

The Examiner has required election of one of these Groups. The Examiner contends Groups I-III are patentably distinct and unrelated and has required election of one of these groups. Applicants elect to prosecute Group I, including Claims 19-33, without traverse. Applicants note the Examiner has taken the position that dishwashers and ovens are patentably distinct from a linen treatment device.

In addition, the Examiner has identified five patentably distinct species within the claims of Groups I as follows:

- 1) sensor coupled to a soapy water container (Claim 20);
- 2) sensor coupled to a lever device (Claim 21);
- 3) sensor coupled to a damper (Claim 22);
- 4) sensor arranged below an upper outer surface (Claim 23); and
- 5) four sensors connected to the corners of a household device (Claim 30).

The Examiner contends that these species are independent or distinct because they are not usable together and have different modes of operation. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction requirement and believe that the Examiner has improperly determined the grouping of the species. Applicants traverse the separate grouping of Species 1 and 2. Applicants do not traverse the grouping of Species 3-5.

Applicants believe Species 1 and 2 should be grouped together. The claims of Species 2 (including Claim 21) depend from the claim of Species 1 (Claim 20). Therefore, by definition, Species 1 and 2 are usable together. Claim 20 recites the sensor

being coupled to the soapy water container, and Claim 21 clarifies that the lever device couples the sensor to the soapy water container.

The Examiner has required election of one of these species. Applicants elect to prosecute Species 2, including Claims 19-21 and 26-29. Applicants note the Examiner has taken the position that the embodiments of Species 3-5 are patentably distinct from the embodiment of Species 2. Applicants have withdrawn Claims 22-25 and 30-33

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this response, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig J. Loest', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Craig J. Loest

Registration No. 48,557

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BSH Home Appliances Corp.
100 Bosch Blvd
New Bern, NC 28562
Phone: 252-672-7930
Fax: 714-845-2807
email: craig.loest@bshg.com